

Man Crashes Car Into Church Office

SIOUX FALLS (AP) — A 73-year-old man has been charged with DUI after authorities say he crashed his car into two parked cars and a church office building while driving drunk.

Robert Gordon Larson has been charged with DUI for the crash that occurred just before midnight Thursday. The crash left a hole in the side of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod office. Church officials worked early Friday to patch the hole. A damage estimate wasn't immediately available.

A 77-year-old female passenger in the car was taken to a hospital with a broken leg.

Reached by phone, Larson said the accident was his fault. He said he had been drinking "too much."

Neb. Attorney General Backs Newspaper

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Attorney General's Office has backed a student newspaper in its quest for records regarding the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's new health center.

The office of Attorney General Jon Bruning called on UNL to release documents regarding bids to *The Daily Nebraskan*. But the office also said the university could black out portions containing proprietary information about the only company to submit a bid, Bryan Health.

The opinion from Bruning's office is not an order to the university and doesn't carry the force of law.

UNL spokeswoman Kelly Bartling told The Associated Press on Friday that the university will black out the proprietary information in the bid and provide the document to *The Daily Nebraskan* and anyone else who asks for it. She expects that to happen by next week.

An independent, student-run newspaper, *The Daily Nebraskan* sought the attorney general's help last month when the university refused to share contents of the private hospital company's bid to build and operate the new center, according to the *Lincoln Journal Star*.

Andrew Dickinson, *The Daily Nebraskan's* top editor, said the newspaper wanted to examine the bid so it could share with readers more details about what Bryan Health would do.

"Potential privatization of the health center can affect students in a lot of ways, and those ways aren't particularly clear at this point," Dickinson said.

In an editorial, the newspaper said the university should be more transparent about the process of selecting a private contractor.

UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman announced plans in September to seek a private vendor for the center. An evaluation committee will review the Bryan Health bid and make a recommendation to Perlman.

So far, plans are for the university to hand over operation of the health center to a private provider around May 1. The university would require the contractor to keep the health center's nearly 100 employees on the payroll for at least 90 days after the contract's effective date.

County Works To Avoid Repeat Of Miscount

MITCHELL (AP) — Davison County Auditor Susan Kiepke says her office has taken steps to guard against a repeat in Tuesday's general election of a vote miscount that happened during the June primary.

Errors in the Davison County count were discovered the day after the primary. An investigation by the secretary of state's office determined that a vote scanner counted more than 400 ballots twice due to operator error.

The problem did not affect the outcome of any races.

Kiepke tells *The Daily Republic* newspaper that officials have been doing a lot of ballot scanner test runs leading up to Tuesday's election and all of them have come out OK. She also is requesting that the manufacturer of the voting machine used by the county send a technician for election night.

New Charges Filed In Witness-Tampering Case

ABERDEEN (AP) — Prosecutors have filed new charges against two Aberdeen residents accused in an alleged witness-tampering case.

Former Brown County prosecutor Brandon Taliaferro and Shirley Schwab, a court advocate for juveniles and families, have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to commit perjury and subornation of perjury, or getting another person to lie under oath.

The *American News* reports that the new charges replace a count of subornation of perjury that a judge dismissed in August because the indictment was not detailed enough.

Taliaferro and Schwab are accused in a case in which prosecutors say a sexual abuse victim was influenced to give false testimony. They also have pleaded not guilty to witness tampering.

Their trial is to begin Jan. 7.

Nebraskan Pleads No Contest To Homicide

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 69-year-old Omaha woman has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of vehicular homicide.

Authorities say Leslie Hoberman failed to yield the right of way to Jeffrey Ahl at a west Omaha intersection on May 23. Her vehicle clipped Ahl's east-bound motorcycle as she turned south. He was fatally injured in the subsequent crash of his bike.

Hoberman's sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 24.

Democrats Hope To Gain Legislative Seats

BY CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE (AP) — Democrats took a beating in South Dakota's legislative races two years ago, but the minority party hopes to make substantial gains in the state House and Senate in Tuesday's election.

South Dakota Democratic Party Chairman Ben Nesselhuff said he believes his party's candidates will win a lot of seats because of voter dissatisfaction with actions taken in the past two years by Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard and GOP lawmakers to cut education spending, impose merit pay for teachers and give incentive grants to large industrial projects.

"I definitely think we're going to gain seats," Nesselhuff said.

Tony Post, executive director for the state Republican Party, said he believes GOP candidates will benefit from what Daugaard and the Legislature have accomplished. Republicans will likely keep about two-thirds majorities in both chambers, he said.

"I'm bullish that we'll keep our majorities right around where they're at," Post said.

For the past two years, Republicans have outnumbered Democrats 30-5 in the Senate and 50-19 in the House. One House member was an independent affiliated with the Republican Party.

The last time Democrats controlled a South Dakota legislative chamber was during the two-year period after the 1992 election, when they held 20 Senate seats to the Republicans' 15.

As in all recent years, Republicans started this year with an advantage by fielding candidates for more seats in both the Senate and House.

The GOP ran candidates for 33 of 35 Senate seats, while Democrats had just 24. Republicans had candidates for 62 of 70 House seats, while Democrats contested only 51.

Each of the state's 35 legislative districts elects one senator and two at-large representatives, except in two areas where Senate districts are split into two House districts, each of which

elects its own House member. Those single-member House districts were created to give Native Americans in northwestern and south-central South Dakota a chance to elect House members of their choice.

This year's legislative campaign is the first after districts were redrawn to account for population changes reported in the 2010 census. Those new districts, along with some lawmakers' attempts to switch chambers, have pitted some incumbents against each other.

Among the races drawing attention is a match between Republican Sen. Al Novstrup of Aberdeen and Rep. Paul Dennert of Aberdeen, who was term-limited in the House and moved from his farm near Columbia to Aberdeen to challenge Novstrup. If Dennert had stayed at his old address, he would have been in the same district as a current Democratic senator.

In another northeastern district, Democratic Rep. Steve Street of Milbank is challenging Republican Sen. Tim Begalka of Clear Lake. In southeastern South Dakota, Democratic Rep. Frank Kloucek of Scotland, a 22-year veteran of the Legislature, is running for the Senate against Republican Bill Van Gerpen of Tyndall, who is seeking to return to the Legislature after serving eight years in three different periods.

In another closely watched race, former Democratic lawmaker Dan Ahlers of Dell Rapids is running against Republican Sen. Tim Rave of Baltic. And Democratic Rep. Larry Lucas of Mission is running for the Senate against Republican Sen. Kent Juhnke of Vivian.

In many districts, legislative races revolve around the personalities of candidates well-known to local voters, but those races play out against the backdrop of statewide issues.

Those issues include budget cuts made by the governor and the Republican-dominated Legislature in state aid to school districts and Medicaid providers, a move that prompted a teachers union and health care organization to put a proposed 1-cent sales tax increase on the ballot to get extra money that would be split between education and health care.

"I think the treatment of public education in

our state is going to play a huge role in the legislative races," said Bryce Healy, executive director of the South Dakota Education, the teachers union that proposed the tax increase.

After this year's Legislature passed Daugaard's plan to give bonuses to top teachers, recruit more teachers in critical fields and phase out teacher tenure, opponents referred that to a statewide vote on Tuesday's ballot. Democrats also referred Daugaard's plan to replace an expiring tax refund program for large construction projects with a new program that would use some money from a construction tax to give discretionary grants to projects that would not otherwise be built in the state.

Nesselhuff said voters understand that the budget cuts hurt schools, the education plan takes away local control of schools, and the incentive program uses tax money that would better be spent on schools.

"It doesn't hurt that Republicans have an abysmal record over the last two years in Pierre. That's what I think is really going to create some backlash," Nesselhuff said.

David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry who has been a backer of the incentive program for large industrial projects, said he doesn't think the program is quite so partisan an issue. People might disagree on details, he said, but about half of the Democratic legislative candidates appear to support the governor's plan.

"I'm not sure there's that much rigidity in South Dakota political philosophy," Owen said.

Nesselhuff said voters should send more Democrats to the Legislature to allow more ideas to surface in the House and Senate.

"It's incredibly important that Democrats pick up seats in order to bring back two-party government to South Dakota," the Democratic Party chairman said.

Post said voters should elect Republican lawmakers who can work with Daugaard.

"The governor has done a lot in two years, and he wants to continue to do a lot," Post said.

GOP Voices For Kerrey Show Deep Split In Party

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — For months, there seemed to be little question about the outcome of the Senate election in Nebraska, one of the nation's most Republican states. But with Election Day approaching, the race between Republican Deb Fischer and Democrat Bob Kerrey has suddenly tightened and become the stage for an unusual quarrel between two generations of the GOP - past vs. present.

A chorus of prominent veteran Republicans, most of them retired, has spoken out in the last few days for Kerrey, praising him as the kind of pragmatic politician who would best represent the state's interests. Fischer, who until recently held a substantial lead, has had to scramble to counter with her own Republican testimonials, including one from Arizona Sen. John McCain, who held an airport press conference for her Friday.

The exchange showed the depth of the animosity between the older generation of moderate Republicans and their more conservative successors. For some, a Democrat was now a better choice for voters than what might pass for a Republican today.

"Bob Kerrey exemplifies what a good senator should be," former New Hampshire Republican Sen. Warren Rudman said in a video statement backing Kerrey. "He has always been willing to work across the aisle, very bipartisan, never nasty, always giving and most appreciative of people that will work with him on major issues."

Also praising Kerrey, in state-

ments or interviews, were former Republican Sens. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, Alan Simpson of Wyoming, John Danforth of Missouri, and Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas.

Kerrey hopes the comments from the GOP elders, who served with him in Congress in the 1980s and 1990s, will help attract enough moderate voters to finally close the gap with Fischer. A recent poll by the Omaha World-Herald nine days gave Fischer only a 3 point lead — within the margin of error.

The idea is "that he's not a partisan Democrat and that he can work across the aisle with Republicans," said Paul Landow, a University of Nebraska at Omaha political science professor. Also, it is intended to show "Kerrey's credibility and stature among both political parties."

Since winning the GOP nomination as a tea party favorite, Fischer, a rancher from Valentine and state legislator, has also worked in the general election campaign to appeal to more moderate voters.

McCain, a moderate Republican before turning to the right in recent years, attempted to help her case.

"I'm confident that Deb Fischer will reach across the aisle, because if we are in the majority, we will be able to change things," McCain said. "So, it's not a matter of who would reach across the aisle. I'm confident probably both (Fischer and Kerrey) would, but with Harry Reid as the majority leader, we won't get anything done in the United States Senate."

Both Kerrey and Fischer have portrayed themselves as the candidate who would break Washington's gridlock while painting the other as a rigid partisan. Fischer constantly points to Kerrey's record of voting with the Democratic Party 90 percent of the time during his two terms in the Senate.

Kerrey has said Fischer would be a rubber stamp for conservative interests — like anti-tax activist Grover Norquist — who's proposals would be at odds with the best interests of Nebraskans.

Fischer maintained a lead approaching double digits in the polls. But the race tightened as the election got closer, and as the surprising Republican voices joined the debate. Groups backing both candidates this week began to boost advertising and invest more money.

In a news conference Thursday, Hagel endorsed Kerrey and said he has demonstrated he can work with Republicans and "never let political differences get personal."

"Bob has never shied away from any of the tough issues," Hagel said, citing budget deficits and entitlement spending.

Several younger — and currently serving — Republicans also rushed

to help Fischer.

"I like Bob Kerrey. He's been a friend for 25, 30 years," Nebraska's Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Johanns said. "But I don't agree with Bob Kerrey, and I don't agree with his direction for this country."

"I need Deb Fischer in Washington to work with me for the benefit of all Nebraskans," he said.

A Fischer victory is important to Republicans' chances of winning a majority in the Senate, where they are outnumbered 53-47.

If Fischer wins, the GOP will hold both U.S. Senate seats from Nebraska and the governorship, and they'll be favored to hang onto all the state's congressional seats and control the Legislature. A Kerrey win would give Democrats a toe-hold in a state that has grown increasingly conservative over the last decade. The winner will replace Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson, who did not seek re-election.

Letter to the Editor:
Referred Law 16 deserves a "no" vote.
Throughout our nation, high stakes testing has proved harmful to many children. Other states got legislated into similar teacher evaluation policies and are now struggling for relief. Expanded testing like that being planned under South Dakota's onerous new education law has repeatedly harmed sizeable numbers of children in other states. Reliable data confirms an unprecedented increase in children being treated for psychiatric illnesses due to testing experiences.
This information should concern voters. HB1234 (Law 16) expects that as much as 50% of each teacher's evaluation will be based upon high stakes testing. This government-mandated testing contributes nothing to student learning. Under HB1234 (Law 16), children will be tested in many subjects beyond math and reading. Test content will be determined by outside companies who will be amply rewarded with South Dakota taxpayer money.
Dave L. Wegner, Independent tutor of H.S. math subjects
Sioux Falls SD
PAID ADVERTISEMENT

★Decorate a Tree

...Help a Family in Need!

Please help us make this holiday season a little brighter for some families in need.

2 Ways You Can Help Out:

1. Sponsor and decorate a artificial christmas tree and coordinating gift box for food donations
2. Vote for your favorite tree by placing one non-perishable food item in the gift box located by that tree

Trees will be on display at the Yankton Mall with voting November 12th-December 10th. Trees will be picked up by the families in need and food delivered to our local food pantry Dec. 13th-15th.

Tree Registration Due: November 7th
Call the mall office 665-5999 or Rita's Purse-O-Nalities 260-8362

Tree Setup/Decorate Tree: November 10th-11th
Please check in at Rita's Purse-O-Nalities or the Yankton Mall before setting up.

Grand Prize For Best Decorated Tree is an \$100 Yankton Mall Gift Card Winner will be announced December 12th

Brought to you by the **Press & Dakotan & the Yankton Mall**

Co-sponsored by: **Rita's Purse-O-Nalities**

It's NOT Just a Penny Tax Increase!

Initiated Measure #15 is a

\$180 Million

Permanent Tax Increase on Almost Everything People Buy in SD Every Year

- All the higher taxes go only to school boards and Medicaid providers
- No proof on how much they really need
- No specifics on how they will spend it
- No legislative oversight or review of spending
- It's triple the amount needed to restore their cuts
- It's the wrong way to create permanent tax policy

Don't Raise Taxes on Yourself and Your Family

Please Vote NO on #15

Paid for by the No on 15 Committee, N. J. Johnson, Treasurer www.defeat15.org

SD Farm Bureau - SD Retailers Association - SD Agri-Business Association - National Federation of Independent Business - SD Innkeepers Association - SD Trucking Association - Music & Vending Association of SD - SD Beer Distributors - SD Association of Cooperatives - SD Manufactured Housing Association - SD Petroleum & Propane Marketers Association - Licensed Beverage Dealers of SD - SD Grain & Feed Association - SD Coalition for Responsible Taxation